DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

# CMAOC Training:

## CNO: Primer for Suicide Cases

# Introduction

Objective: Prepare certified CNOs for duty when cause of death is “apparent self-inflicted”

- Supplements the CNO certification course
- Emphasizes that all Families deserve the same time, attention, respect, and support

- Do not allow personal feelings to interfere with your duty

# CAC Brief

- Circumstances surrounding the death
  - Available Information - Facts
  - Personal feelings
- Notification Script
  - Use the term “Apparent Self-Inflicted”
  - NEVER use the term SUICIDE
- Status of any ongoing investigation (if known)

# Grief Reactions

- Next of Kin may react in any number of ways including:
  - Shock
  - Disbelief / Denial
  - Anger
  - Extreme Grief
  - Hostility
  - Avoidance
  - Medical Emergency

***Remember:*** Reactions may be very strong, but they are part of the shock and grief and are not about you. Do not take this personally.

# Chaplain's Role

- The Chaplain support s you and the Family
- The Chaplain will
  - ***Not*** make the notification…that is your role
  - Supports  you and shares experiences dealing with suicide cases
  - Confirms that you have provided all the information you have at the time
  - Assists you in determining the appropriate time to address the Dignified Transfer script  if the death occurred in theater
- Provides solace to the bereaved Family
- Assists in determining appropriate time to depart residence

# Presenting the Dignified Transfer Script for Theater Deaths

- Approach this carefully
  - Ensure Family has progressed enough through the shock to understand what you are about to present
- Presenting the Script
  - Read the script verbatim…and don’t rush through it
  - Make eye contact with the Family to ensure they are listening
    - If they seem to be lost in thought, ask them if they understand what you are reading so far
    - Allows you to help them stay focused
- Once completed, answer any questions they may have using the script as your guide or put the Family in direct contact with the CMAOC  Travel & Transportation Office

# Additional Resources

- Online Grief and Bereavement Module
- Online Dignified Transfer Module
- Online CAO Module

***Remember:***

You are there to Honor the Soldier’s service regardless of the manner of death

# Questions

QUESTIONS